

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SCS-03 DHA-02 L-03 H-02 SSO-00 /021 W

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O 082040Z JUL 75

FM AMEMBASSY SANTO DOMINGO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 4186

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: CASC, PINT, DR

SUBJ: DETAINED AMERICAN CITIZENS

REF: SD 2908 AND PREVIOUS

1. CONSUL GENERAL AND CONSUL BUZBEE VISITED THE THREE
DETAINED PUERTO RICANS IN LA VICTORIA PRISON ON JULY 7.
THE VISIT WAS AUTHORIZED BY THE PROSECUTING ATTORNEY
(FISCAL) AND APPROVED BY THE CHIEF OF POLICE AT THE
REQUEST OF CONSULAR OFFICERS, THE POLICE OFFICERS
PRESENT DEPARTED FROM THE INTERVIEW ROOM AND PERMITTED
THE CONSULAR OFFICERS TO SPEAK TO PRISONERS WITH ONLY
AN ARMED GUARD PRESENT WHO WAS NOT ABLE TO OVERHEAR
CONVERSATION.

2. IN REPLY TO CONSUL GENERAL'S QUESTION, THE PRISONERS
STATED THAT THEY HAD BEEN BEATEN BY THEIR MILITARY
INTERROGATORS WHEN FIRST ARRESTED. THEY WERE ASKED IF THEY
COULD PRESENT ANY EVIDENCE OR HAD ANY SCARS WHICH WOULD INDICATE
THIS HAD TAKEN PLACE.

THEY STATED THAT WITH THE PASSAGE OF A MONTH THERE WAS NO WAY
THEY COULD PROVE ANY MISTREATMENT BY THEIR INTERROGATORS AND
STATED IT WOULD BE ONLY THEIR WORD AGAINST THAT OF THEIR
INTERROGATORS. THEY SAID THEY HAD NOT BEEN MISTREATED SINCE
THEY HAD BEEN IN THE CUSTODY OF THE NATIONAL POLICE. (COMMENT:
EMBASSY ARRANGED FOR DOCTOR TO EXAMINE GANDIA ABOUT 10 DAYS
AGO WHEN HE COMPLAINED OF HEART PAINS DURING CONSUL'S VISIT.

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DOCTOR'S REPORT OF COMPLETE PHYSICAL WHICH WAS GIVEN AT THAT

TIME AND HAS NOW BEEN RECEIVED BY EMBASSY SHOWS NO EVIDENCE OF PHYSICAL ABUSE.)

3. THE PROSECUTING ATTORNEY HAS ASSURED THE EMBASSY THAT THE DOMINICAN

ATTORNEYS AND FAMILY MEMBERS OF THE THREE MAY NOW VISIT THE PRISONERS AT LA VICTORIA. WE HAVE BEEN IN TOUCH WITH THE PARENTS OF SAMPSON AND HAVE MADE ARRANGEMENTS FOR THEM TO VISIT THEIR SON ON JULY 9. TODAY, JULY 8, WE FURNISHED A TELEPHONIC REPORT ON THE CASE TO MR JOSE PICO, PRESIDENT OF THE BAR ASSOCIATION OF PUERTO RICO. DR PICO, ACCOMPANIED BY TWO MEMBERS OF THE BOARD

OF DIRECTORS OF THE BAR ASSOCIATION VISITED SANTO DOMINGO LAST WEEK AND ATTENDED THE HABEAS CORPUS HEARING. THE AMBASSADOR REVIEWED THE CASE IN DETAIL WITH THE ATTORNEYS. HE AGREED TO KEEP THEM INFORMED OF DEVELOPMENTS IN THE CASE.

4. CONSUL BUZBEE HAS NOTIFIED THE DOMINICAN ATTORNEYS WHO WERE AT THE HABEAS CORPUS HEARING OF THE PROSECUTING ATTORNEY'S AGREEMENT TO LET THE ATTORNEYS HAVE ACCESS TO THE PRISONERS. THE ATTORNEYS HAVE NOT INDICATED WHEN THEY INTEND TO CONFER WITH THE PRISONERS.

5. THE PRISONERS REQUESTED CONSULAR OFFICER ASSISTANCE IN OBTAINING CANNED FOOD WITH WHICH TO SUPPLEMENT THEIR DIETS, ADDITIONAL ITEMS OF CLOTHING AND FUNDS TO PURCHASE FOODSTUFFS AT THE PRISON CANTEEN. THIS REQUEST HAS BEEN MADE KNOWN TO MEMBERS OF THE FAMILIES. CONSUL BUZBEE EXPECTS TO ACCOMPANY SAMPSON'S PARENTS TO THE PRISON ON JULY 9. ADDITIONAL VISITS WILL BE MADE AS APPROPRIATE.

6. THE PROSECUTING ATTORNEY HAS INFORMALLY ADVISED THE EMBASSY THAT HE EXPECTS A TRIAL FOR THE THREE TO BE HELD IN 4 TO 6 WEEKS.
HURWITCH

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